

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: PETITION OF YOURTEL AMERICA, INC. :  
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE : DOCKET NO. 4239  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE :  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FOR THE LIMITED :  
PURPOSE OF OFFERING LIFELINE SERVICE :  
TO QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLDS :

ORDER

WHEREAS, On April 21, 2011, YourTel America, Inc. (“YourTel” or “Company”) filed with the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) a Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) throughout its service area in the State of Rhode Island pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 214(e)<sup>1</sup> in order to provide discounted service to low income customers and receive certain subsidies from the Federal Universal Service Fund (“Petition”); and

WHEREAS, Under this pre-paid wireless telecommunications service, YourTel will provide handsets to lifeline participants free of charge (only one participant per household) and will include sixty-eight (68) free minutes of usage each month; and

WHEREAS, Because it is a pre-paid service, there is no concern that customers be protected from long-distance charges as there is with landline ETC service; and

WHEREAS, YourTel has indicated that it will recover a portion of the activation fee through disbursements from the Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”) and recover the remaining portion of the activation fee from customers over a twelve month period with no interest; and

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<sup>1</sup> 47 U.S.C. 214(e) imposed statutory responsibility upon the Commission to certify telecommunications service providers as “eligible” to receive funds from the Federal Universal Service Fund.

WHEREAS, YourTel indicated that it will utilize random sampling to conduct its recertification of eligible customers; and

WHEREAS, YourTel responded to data requests issued by the Commission and Division; and

WHEREAS, On June 7, 2011, the Commission issued a public Notice soliciting comments regarding the Petition. No comments were received; and

WHEREAS, On June 30, 2011, the Division filed Comments with the Commission supporting YourTel's Petition on the basis that it will provide more competition among phone service providers which will ultimately be a benefit to customers and allow low income customers who are not currently participating in Lifeline programs another choice. The Division also indicated that YourTel had adequately met all of the Commission's requirements in its ETC Rules; and

WHEREAS, The Commission is of the opinion that YourTel's petition for ETC designation is proper, complies with the federal and state requirements, and is in the best interest of ratepayers; and

Accordingly, it is hereby

(40239) ORDERED:

1) YourTel America, Inc. is hereby designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier throughout its service area for receiving universal service support.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JULY 26, 2011  
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON  
AUGUST 5, 2011.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



*Elia Germani*  
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Elia Germani, Chairman

*Mary E. Bray*  
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Mary E. Bray, Commissioner

*Paul J. Roberti*  
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Paul J. Roberti, Commissioner